

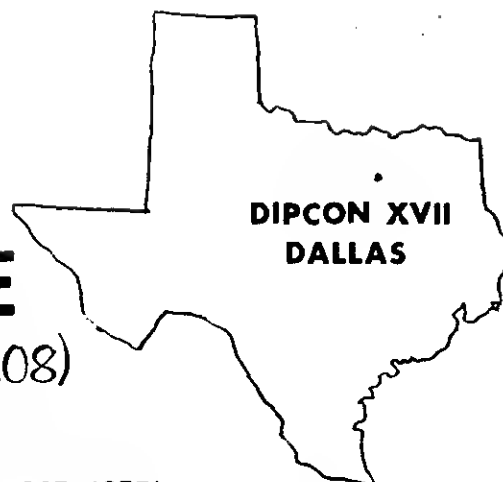


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ECOTOPIA 6

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DIPCON ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

published by the Chairman, Pete Gaughan (817-633-3208)



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This month we have two angry letters. Not much else.

If you are considering a trip to Dipcon in Seattle, please write to Pete and request a copy of Ecotopia #5 and the registration form, or write to Dragonflight (the host convention) at PO Box 0417, Seattle WA 98111.

Lastish I printed all the proposals received up to 21 June 1985. I haven't received any more, but Mark Berch has written to complain about my presentation of an amendment which would have scrapped the old voting procedure. Mark's original proposal was made in April of 1983, and offered to me again this year.

I altered Mark's proposal for two reasons. First, his included provision for a rotation system substantially the same as Ed Wrobel's. Second, it was completely "unofficial"--that is, it did not assign a place for itself within the Charter. I had to guess which portions of the Charter it is supposed to supercede, and where it would be included.

I apologize to Mark for being so editorial with his work. He requests that I not submit any version but the one he wrote. Accordingly, here is the original Berch proposal (substitute this for what appeared last month). However, next time I receive a complaint I hope it is a lot more polite than Mark's; give me a little benefit of the doubt, people.

SITE ROTATION AND VOTING PROCEDURE (Section numbers, etc, assigned by P. Gaughan)
from Mark Berch

- I. Section 2.3 is amended to include three regions. [I assume Mark will be satisfied with Ed's regions, since he does not specify where the boundaries should be.]
- II. Section 2.4 is amended to read:

The Dipcon site must be rotated among the Regions. The eligible region rotates each year according to the following schedule: I-II-III-I-II-III-I etc, except that if an eligible region isn't selected, it remains eligible for the next year.

[Note: I assume the rotation would kick in at 1987, since amendments currently cannot take effect immediately. Thus, II/1987, III/1988, I/1989, etc. This proposal also removes the provision against having Dipcon in the same state or province in consecutive years, though the "eligibility" system deals with that indirectly.]

- III. Sections 2.5 and 2.6 are deleted, and 2.7 and 2.8 renumbered to 2.6 and 2.7. New Section 2.5 is inserted to read as follows:

After all of the bids have been presented, and discussed, the Chair will call for a vote on the question: "Is there a suitable bid from the eligible region?"

If the vote is yes, the bid from that region is accepted, unless there were [sic] a plurality of bids [sic] from that region, in which case, a second vote will be used to select which bid from that region will be accepted.

If the vote is no, the Chair will call for a vote on the question, "Is there a suitable bid from the region not hosting this DipCon?" If the vote is yes, then the procedure in the previous paragraph is used.

If the vote is no again, then the Chair will call for a vote on the question, "Is there a suitable bid from the region hosting this DipCon?" If the vote is yes, then the earlier procedure is used. If the answer is no, then no site is selected, and the members of the Admin Committee are directed to use their best judgement to select a site at a later time.

Pete here again. The proposal above is still not what Mark wrote, verbatim--if he doesn't want this offered, he'll have to send me something he does want. It has the disadvantage of making it extremely easy for a group to keep Dipcon, merely by voting "no" to suitable bids outside their region.

On a lighter note, Al Pearson has written about last year's Dipcon finances. "The Past Dipcon committee received \$245 from the 1984 Origins (in April)," he writes. "After waiting for the check to clear...and deducting \$50 for postage and telephone, the \$195 was given to the BNC, Bill Quinn. In my mail during the month of June he acknowledged receipt of the check." Thanks to Al for clearing this up and finishing off last year's business so well.

A brief letter from Dick Warner, head honcho of MaryCon: "I attended the Atlanticon hobby meeting and discussed the problem [of competition between their cons] with Robert Sacks. Actually Bill Thompson...made a recommendation that we endeavor to persuade the Dipcon Committee to allow Marycon to host Dipcon in '86 with Robert Sacks and the New York Game Board as the Tournament management. There was support for this though neither Sacks nor I committed ourselves. Both of us realize that the selection of the Dipcon management will and should be up to your committee."

Pete: Apparently Sacks has committed himself now (see below). You are both slightly mistaken since the choice of site and management (called the Administrative Committee) will be up to the attendees at Seattle, NOT the decision of this year's Committee.

Another brief letter, this from Ed Wrobel: "If I were voting under this rule [Berch's], my first thought would be "what is 'suitable'?" and no doubt some voters will put this question to the Chairman. What the proposal really amounts to is a two-tier system whereby first a region is selected and, secondly, a site within that region. If that keeps Dipcon moving from region to region, all well and good, but why not call it what it is instead of loading the Charter with vague language certain to generate argument after argument?"

And, finally, the second angry letter. Robert Sacks had comments on most of last issue. To save myself some typing I'll cut and paste his letter, with my comments in [brackets], after the first two short notes:

The hobby meeting at Origins resolved "That Dipcon be advised that their name has been infringed" (by the so-called Texas Dipcon). [Wrong. I was already aware of "Texas Dipcon", and it is not an "infringement" of our name since Dipcon is in no way legally registered.]

They also discussed bids for the 1986 Dipcon. Expect a bid from Marycon to host Dipcon with the NYGB running the Tournament and disbursing some surcharge to the hobby services. [I suspect that any bid which has strings attached such as choice of management, will be viewed with suspicion in Seattle.]

On "Proxy Balloting": This seems to be a blatant attempt to allow the publishers of large circulation zines to dominate the site selection. There is no substitute for deliberation in meeting. This also discriminates against bids which are dependent on contracts signed less than a year before the convention - the extra 1-3 months required to file will make it impossible for some of the best sites to compete.

[I doubt that late bids would be discriminated against much, since the proposal as worded does not require preregistration. "Absentee" ballots would be "conditional"--or preference--ballots.]

On the "Site Rotation" and "Vote Weighting" proposals: I am getting tired of the attempts to rig and manipulate the site selection. Any procedure which does not permit potential bidders from knowing years in advance when they are eligible will discourage and inhibit bidders, and encourage inferior and carpet-bag conventions. The DipCon is gambling with its existence. The Seminar isn't always held. The hobby meeting is held by the NYGB wherever it runs a major tournament. The proceeds from the DipCon have been misappropriated by host conventions or administrative committees, or wasted in large prizes and self-serving propaganda, while other tournaments and agencies provide the regular support for hobby services that the DipCon fails to provide. (DipCon didn't begin to fund hobby services until after the NYGB run tournament did.) And now the locality which hosted last year's DipCon is running its own DipCon this year, without the slightest protest from the administrative committee.

[Gee, such vitriol. Note that the Seminar is hardly a requirement for a successful con; a hobby meeting is always held by Dipcon as well. Dipcon proceeds being "MISAPPROPRIATED"? Give examples, or shut up. (Not to me--if you have charges against past Dipcon Committees, make them in some other public forum!) And the locality that hosted Dipcon last year (Dallas/Fort Worth Gamers, Inc.) is not running a Dip convention this year. The Dipmeet in Houston this summer has changed its name to Razorcon, AT THE BEHEST OF THE DIPCON COMMITTEE. Get your facts straight before you jump on me, Robert.]

On Committee Selection: So now this is going to be rigged also? In the past committees have been chosen for competence, diversity, and ability to monitor the host convention or tournament. Any attempt to regulate this is not likely to work. Any attempt to change this would be wrong. And any attempt to guarantee particular factions representation on the DipCon Committee will be unacceptable to the hobby.

[Rigged? If somebody wanted to rig the selection he certainly wouldn't pick me to write the amendment! My suggestion is simply that the selection and replacement procedures are vague, and therefore open to abuse. I want to close the loopholes.]

On Houserules: Surely the host tournament will use its own houserules. Surely houserules are not the type of clutter that belongs in the Charter. [Surely you understood that I mentioned that merely to find out how people felt about it. You were the only person to mention it at all.]

Overall, a mixed month--several people let me know they're looking forward to Dipcon, and Mark and Robert wrote to gripe. I can't wait to get out of this job, frankly...I begin to understand what public servants go through.

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